

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 02373 201954Z

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 HEW-06 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8039

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

GOVERNOR ST CROIX VI

UNCLAS KINGSTON 2373

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, CHMC, DHEW/OIH, EAID, SWEL, XL, JM

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF CARIBBEAN HEALTH MINISTERS CONFERENCE,
JUNE 16-20, 1975

ST CROIX PLEASE PASS TO THE
HONORABLE CYRIL E. KING, GOVERNOR US VIRGIN ISLANDS

REF: STATE 136388, GEORGETOWN 892

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE FOR DR. ALFRED HEATH

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS SUMMARIZED BY HEAD OF US OBSERVER
DELEGATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. SUBJECT MEETING OPENED JUNE 16 WITH ADDRESSES BY
ANTHONY CAPLETON, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, JAMAICA; HECTOR ACUNA,
DIRECTOR, PASB; AND KENNETH MCNEILL, MINISTER OF HEALTH,
JAMAICA.

2. DR. MCNEIPQ OF JAMAICA, AND MARY TUITT OF MONTSERRAT,
WERE ELECTED CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN RESPECTIVELY.

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PAGE 02 KINGST 02373 201954Z

3. AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED BY MEMBER STATES TO SET UP THE REGIONAL DRUG TESTING LABORATORY WITH ASSISTANCE OF PAHO AND CIDA ON MONDAY, JUNE 20.

4. AMONG AGENDA ITEMS RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION WERE PROBLEMS OF HEALTH MANPOWER ; MAINTENANCE OF MEDICAL FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT; AND, MATERIAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES.

5. DURING DISCUSSIONS OF HEALTH MANPOWER PROBLEMS THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM OF UNIVERSITY OF WEST INDIES BECAUSE IT CONCENTRATED ON PRODUCTION OF HIGH LEVEL MANPOWER WHEN LOWER LEVEL GENERAL DISCIPLINES WERE NEEDED. THE MDCS WERE ALSO SEVERELY CRITICIZED FOR "ROBBING" HEALTH MANPOWER FROM LDCS.

6. MUCH EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON ATTENDANCE OF CUBAN OBSERVER DELEGATION IN SEVERAL SPEECHES OF MINISTERS. CUBA MADE BRIEF STATEMENT, AS THEIR ONLY INTERVENTION, REGARDING THEIR DESIRE TO "POOL THEIR RESOURCES" WITH THOSE OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY TO HELP RESOLVE MEDICAL AND HEALLTH PROBLEMS OF THE REGION.

7. CONSIDERBLE DEBATE CENTERED ON VOTING PROCEDURES AND EQUALITY/INEQUALITY WHICH IS/SHOULD BE ACCORDED TO MDCS AND LDCS. THIS WILL BE DESCRIBED IN DETAIL BY US OBSERVER DELEGATION'S REPORT.

8. ON MANY OCCASIONS, MINISTERS ACKNOWLEDGED WITH CONSIDERABLE EMPHASIS THEIR APPRECIATION OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED FROM US BY PHS (CDC IN PARTICULAR) AND MANY CHURCH AND PHILANTHROPIC GROUPS WHO HAD PROVIDED SPECIALISTS.

9. COPY FINAL REPORT SUBJECT CONFERENCE WILL BE AIR POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT NEXT WEEK. SEPARATE COPY WILL BE SENT TO HEW/OIH VIA COMMERCIAL AIRMAIL. GERARD

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